

Quick Class Discussion: What was religion like in Rome?



Religion in the Roman Empire

Religion
in Rome was
polytheistic
& based upon
the Greek gods

Romans
worshiped the
gods but people
were not very
emotional about
their religion



Emperors were mostly tolerant of other religions, but expected everyone who lived in the empire to respect the Roman gods as a sign of loyalty



In 63 B.C., the Romans conquered the Hebrew kingdom of Judea & allowed “Romanized Jews” (who showed respect & obeyed Roman laws) to govern Judea

But, the Hebrews were monotheistic & many refused to pay respect to the Roman gods



Religio

Many Hebrews began to resist Roman rule & believed that God would send the Messiah to restore the kingdom to the Jews



The Birth of Jesus & Beginning of Christianity

Sometime between 6 & 4 B.C. in Judea, a Jew named Jesus was born; some considered Jesus to be the Messiah

At the age of 30, Jesus began preaching a unique version of Judaism that became known as Christianity



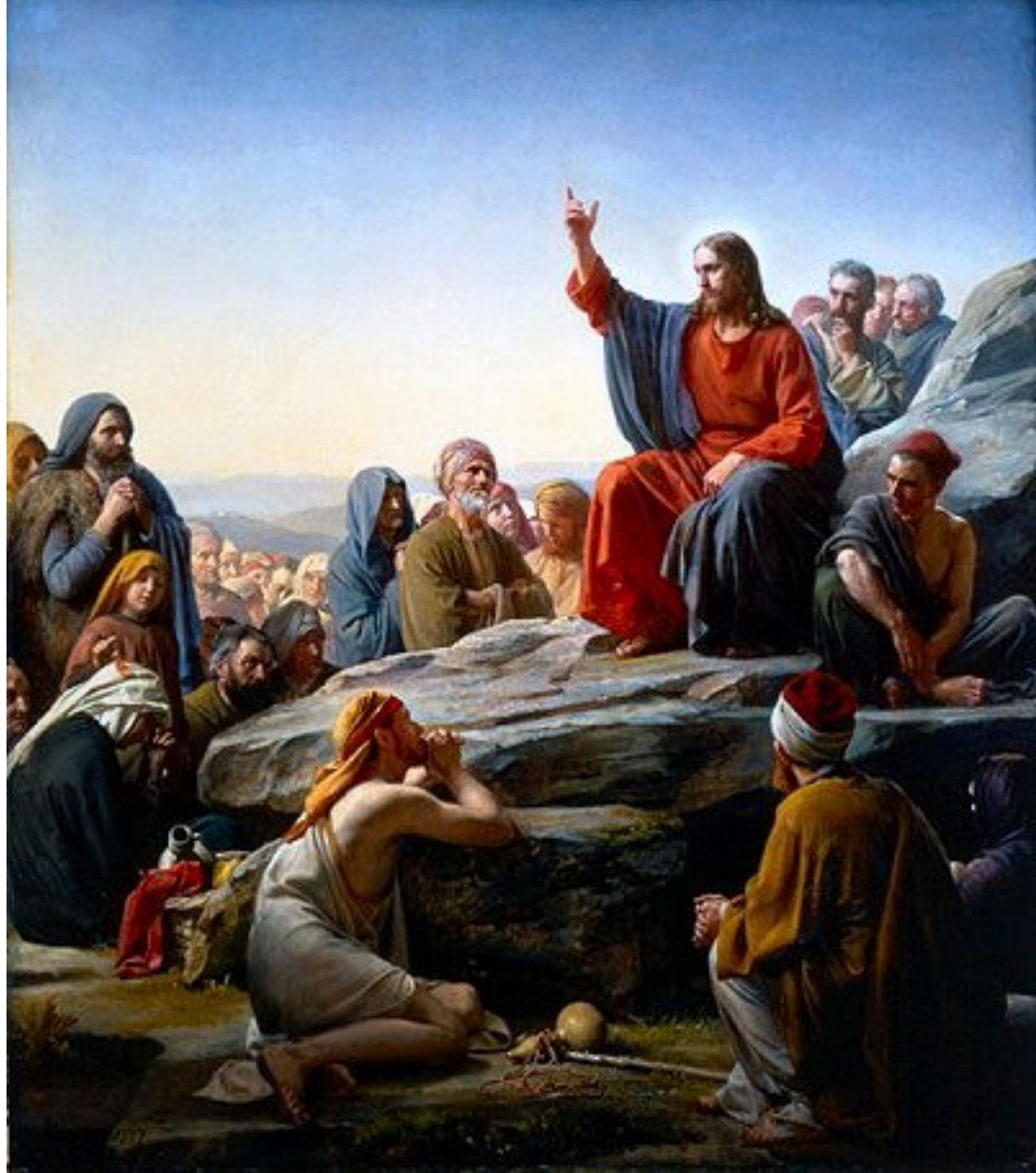
*Quick Class
Discussion:*
What were the
basic teachings
of Jesus?



The Teaching of Jesus

- Jesus did good works, performed miracles, & delivered his religious teachings
 - Jesus preached a religion based on the Jewish belief in one god (monotheism)
 - Jesus taught that he was God's son & that God would rid the world of evil
 - He taught of God's love, mercy and forgiveness towards others, & eternal life in heaven for those who repent their sins
 - He based much of his good works on the Ten Commandments

Quick Class
Discussion:
What kind of
person would
Christianity
appeal to?



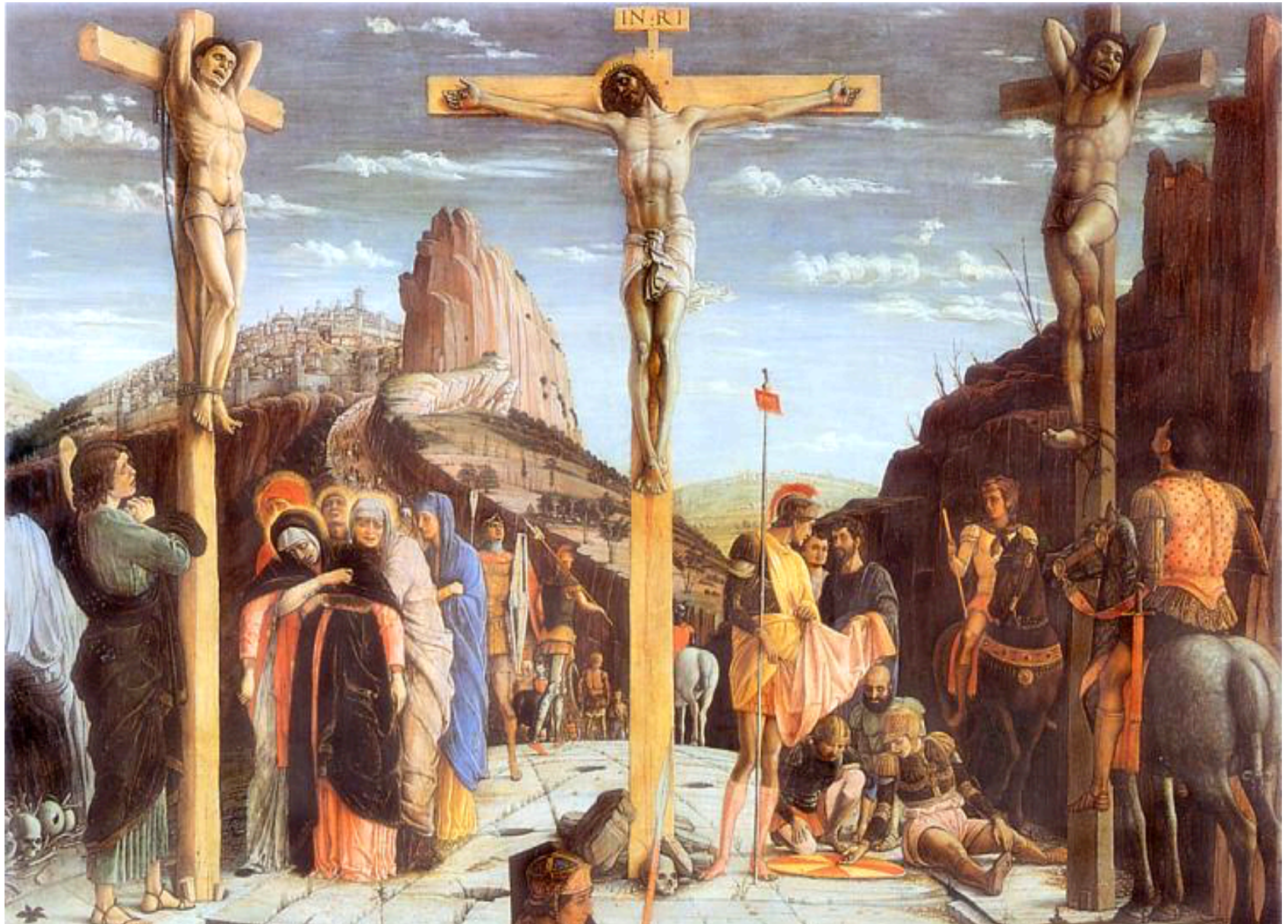
Jesus & the Disciples

Jesus' message of eternal life in heaven appealed to many people, especially the poor

Jesus' followers were known as disciples



Quick Class Discussion:
How & for what reasons did Jesus die?



The Crucifixion of Jesus

Many Hebrews in Judea did not accept the idea that Jesus was a Messiah & accused him of blasphemy (contempt for God)

Roman leaders feared Jesus' growing popularity

In 29 A.D., Jesus was arrested for defying Roman authority & was crucified



Quick Class Discussion:

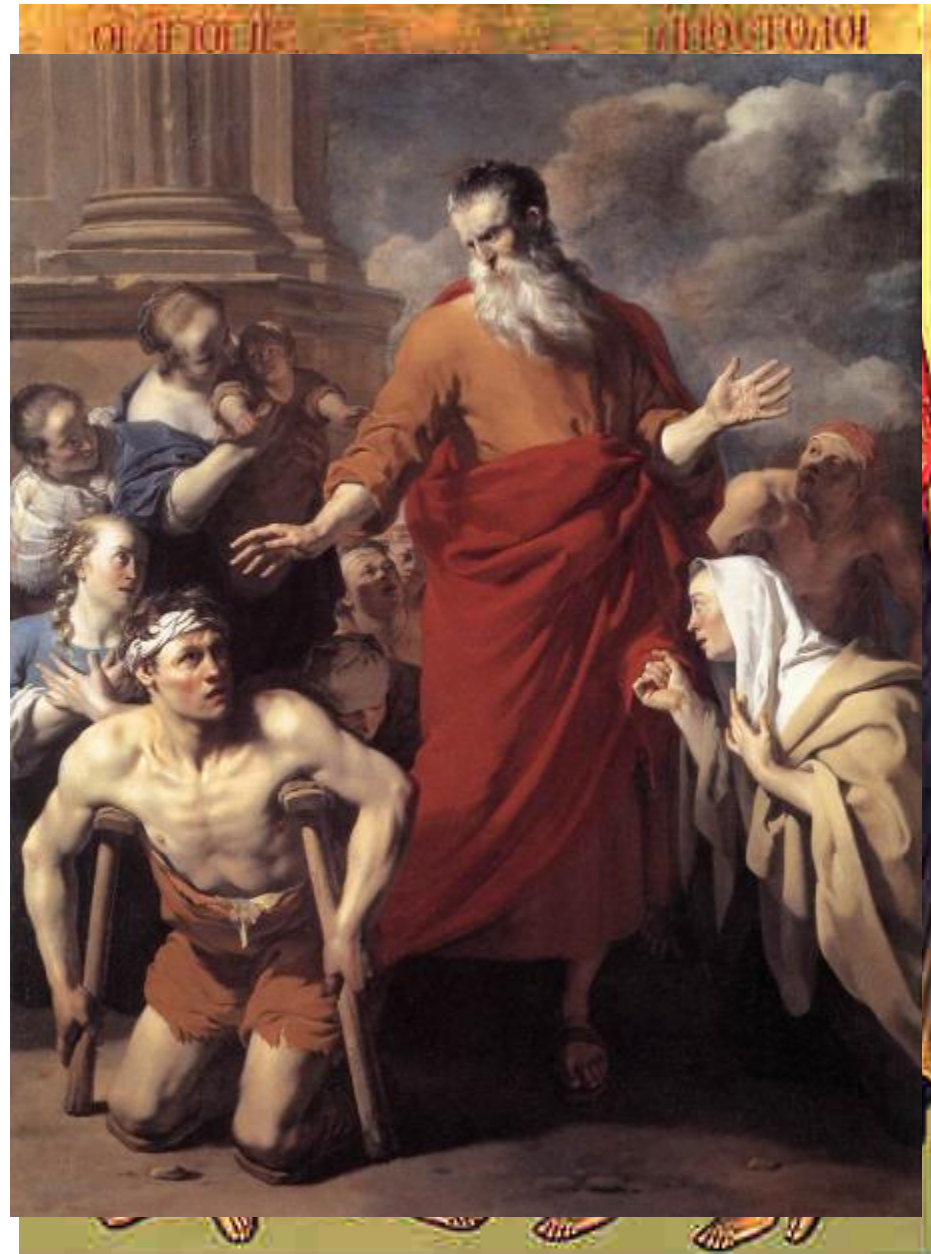
What role did the apostle Paul play in Christianity?



The Spread of Christianity

The Apostles, especially Paul, molded Jesus' teachings into a new religion called Christianity based upon the idea that Jesus was God's son & that he died for man's sins

The Apostles taught that Jews & non-Jews were welcome as Christians



Christianity spread quickly due to roads, numerous trade routes, & common language throughout the Roman Empire



Quick Class Discussion:

How did the Romans treat Hebrews & Christians?

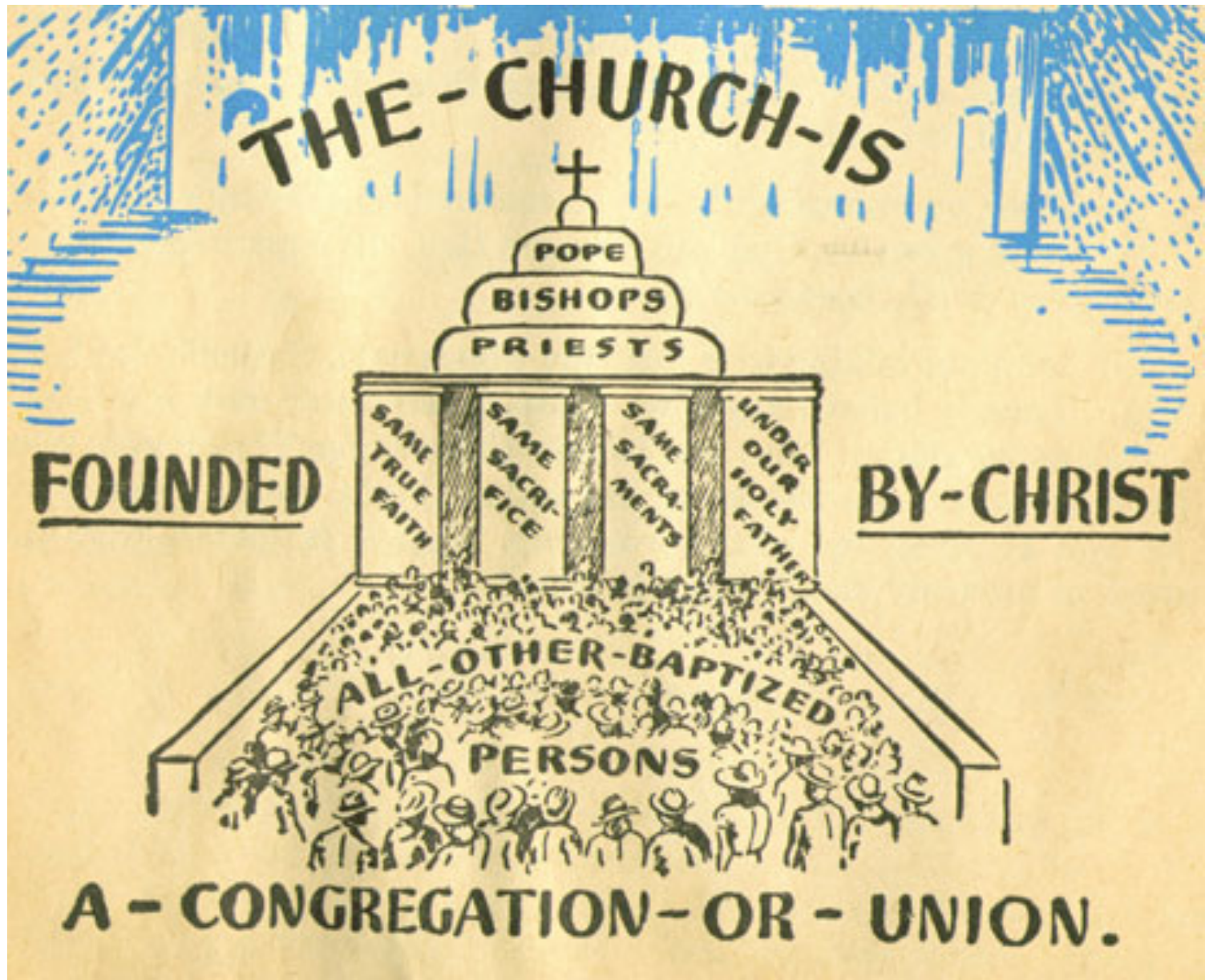


Persecution of Jews & Christians

- Spread of Judaism & Christianity were seen as problems for the Roman emperors:
 - Jews & Christians refused to worship the Roman gods or recognize the emperor as more important than God
 - Many Christians & Jews were persecuted by Romans; Many were crucified, exiled, or executed during gladiator events
 - Christians who died became martyrs (people who sacrifice their lives for their beliefs) which helped spread the faith

Quick Class Discussion:

How was the early Christian Church organized?



Quick Class Discussion:

What was unique about Emperor Constantine?

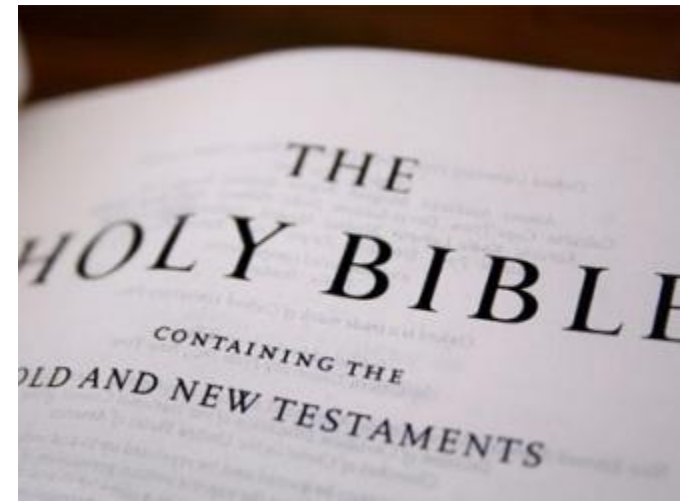


Christianity Becomes Recognized

- Christianity spread throughout Roman Empire & gained popularity
 - In 312 A.D., Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity & issued the Edict of Milan which gave freedoms & equality to Christians
 - In 395 A.D., Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire







Organization of the Early Christian Church

- Christians organized the faith:
 - A hierarchy of leadership was created in which local priests were supervised by regional bishops; The head of the church was the Pope who operated from Rome
 - Teachings were collected into the Bible, the official source of religious truth for Christianity



Closure Activity

- What are the similarities and differences between Christianity and other religions of the ancient world?
 - Review your notes
 - Complete the graphic organizer on the back of your notes

	Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Judaism	Confucianism
						
Followers Worldwide (estimated 2001 figures)	362 million	2 billion	820 million	1.2 billion	14.5 million	6.3 million
Name of Deity	The Buddha did not teach a personal deity.	God	Three main gods: Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva	God (Allah)	God (Yahweh)	Confucius (viewed by many as a god)
Founder	The Buddha	Jesus Christ	No one founder	Muhammad	Abraham	Confucius
Holy Book	No one book—sacred texts, including the <i>Dhammapada</i>	Bible	No one book—sacred texts, including the Vedas, the Puranas	Qur'an	Hebrew Bible, including the Torah	the <i>Analects</i> , the Five Classics
Leadership	Buddhist monks and nuns	Priests, ministers, monks, and nuns	Guru, holy man, Brahmin priest	No clergy but a scholar class called the ulama and the imam, who may lead prayers	Rabbis	No clergy
Basic Beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons achieve complete peace and happiness (nirvana) by eliminating their attachment to worldly things. • Nirvana is reached by following the Noble Eightfold Path: Right views; Right resolve; Right speech; Right conduct; Right livelihood; Right effort; Right mindfulness; Right concentration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is only one God, who watches over and cares for his people. • Jesus Christ was the son of God. He died to save humanity from sin. His death and resurrection made eternal life possible for others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The soul never dies, but is continually reborn. • Persons achieve happiness and enlightenment after they free themselves from their earthly desires. • Freedom from earthly desires comes from a lifetime of worship, knowledge, and virtuous acts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons achieve salvation by following the Five Pillars of Islam and living a just life. These pillars are: faith; prayer; almsgiving, or charity to the poor; fasting, which Muslims perform during Ramadan; pilgrimage to Mecca. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is only one God, who watches over and cares for his people. • God loves and protects his people, but also holds people accountable for their sins and shortcomings. • Persons serve God by studying the Torah and living by its teachings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social order, harmony, and good government should be based on strong family relationships. • Respect for parents and elders is important to a well-ordered society. • Education is important both to the welfare of the individual and to society.